THE MINIISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The reproductive and Child Health Programme in the year 1997 recognized the need to involve non-governmental organizations for complementing Government efforts for population stabilization. Accordingly, the Department of Family Welfare designed a programme under which NGOs having substantial resources and proven competencies were identified as Mother NGOs and provided financial assistance for undertaking the implementation of Reproductive and Child Health activities through Field NGOs working at the sub-centre levels. The Department of Family Welfare has also been providing funds interventions. The department has funded 105 Mother NGOs and 22 NGOs were sanctioned innovative projects.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The performance of the NGOs is evaluated in the first year of its operation and thereafter during the fourth year. Apart from this, the funds are released only on receipt of utilization certificate, audited accounts and annual performance report.

Increase in non-communicable diseases

3143. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in non-communicable diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of measures proposed to be adopted to curb the reoccurrence of these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) While there is no authentic data from our country regarding time trends for non-communicable diseases, it is estimated that with changes in demographic profile, lifestyle and environmental conditions, non-communicable diseases are on the increase in the country.

(c) The Government is implementing National Programmes to control blindness, cancer and mental health. Other steps include discouraging use of tobacco and tobacco products as well as Programmes to control diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other related diseases through a multi-pronged approach involving early diagnosis, identification and control of risk factor and use of IEC to generate awareness.